

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 00708 041721Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /046 W

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R 041655Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2961

UNCLAS PANAMA 0708

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PN

SUBJECT: BANANAS: PANAMA'S REACTION TO THE DEATH OF ELI BLACK,
CHAIRMAN UNITED BRANDS (UB)

REF: EMBASSY'S A-9, JANUARY 16, 1975

1. LOCAL MORNING PRESS WIDELY PUBLICIZED BLACK'S DEATH. "MATUTINO"
IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "ELI BLACK: ABLE FINANCIER, BUT A TERRIBLE
ADMINISTRATOR" REMINDS EVERYONE THAT HE WAS NAMED ONE OF THE TEN WORST

CORPORATE EXECUTIVES IN A RECENT POLL. A "CRITICA" COLUMN HAS A
SYMPATHETIC WORD TO SAY ABOUT BLACK'S DEATH, WHILE CONSIDERING
WHETHER IT WAS REALLY SUICIDE OR PERHAPS A PLOT BY MAFIA.

2. MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FERNANDO MANFREDO STATED IN THE
PRESS THAT HE REGRETTED BLACK'S SUICIDE AND RESPECTED THE DECEASED'S
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A BUSINESSMAN. THE MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT BLACK'S

DEATH WOULD NOT AFFECT THE UB-GOP SALES AGREEMENT (REF A-9), SINCE THIS

WAS CONCLUDED AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEVEL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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